



HIGHWAYS & LOCAL PROGRAMS

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Safe Routes to School Program (State Funds)

* Washington's Future Just Got Better



The Washington State Legislature recently increased the state's role in pedestrian and bicycle safety by adopting Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6091 which creates a new grant program to support pedestrian and bicycle safety projects such as safe routes to schools and transit and bicycle and pedestrian paths.

The Washington State Legislature included \$74 million of funding in the Transportation Budget over the next 16 years to support pedestrian and bicycle safety projects. This call is for the Safe Routes to School program. A separate call is available for the [Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety](#) program.

Purpose

The purpose of the Safe Routes to Schools program is to provide children a safe, healthy alternative to riding the bus or being driven to school. Eligible projects for local community programs and state support should target some or all of the following:

- Engineering fixes – to create safer routes for children bicycling and walking to schools (e.g., like sidewalks, pathways, street safety and design improvements).
- Education and encouragement curriculums and programs – to encourage children to become physically active by walking and biking to school.
- Enforcement programs – to utilize local law enforcement agencies to improve traffic safety around schools with school zone, school route law and safety enforcement programs.
- Community health and encouragement initiatives – to link to the long-term community health benefits when parents and children can take advantage of safe ways for biking and walking to school.

Funding

A total of \$5 million is available for: 1) Safe Routes to Schools and 2) Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety projects.

Match requirement

There is no match requirement; however, preference will be given to projects that provide a local match. Projects are to be submitted as complete projects and fully funded.

Eligible applicants

Schools and school districts in Washington are only eligible to apply. Each proposal from school or school district must include a letter of support from WSDOT, city and/or county officials stating the official support of WSDOT, the city or county for the project (as applicable). WSDOT, cities and counties can support more than one proposal.

Threshold requirements

- Applicants are required to report quarterly to WSDOT on the status of their project.
- All projects must be on a school walk route plan. For more information, refer to the following website: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/pdf/school_admin_guide.pdf
- Proposals must have participation by individuals with expertise in all of the fundamental elements of a Safe Routes to Schools program – engineering, education, enforcement and encouragement. These participants might include teachers or school administrators, parents, local officials including public safety officials as well as elected officials and interested citizens.
- Applicants are required to place signs on all construction projects, identifying the project as a Transportation Partnership Project.

Project proposals

- Complete the [Safe Routes to Schools report](#) form.
- The WSDOT, city or county letter of support.
- Address in 5 pages or less the following:
 1. Describe how the project will make improvements in areas of health and safety education, enforcement, encouragement or engineering, that will increase the number of students walking and biking to school and identify how performance of the projects will be measured.
 2. The project must include performance measurements that can be incorporated into a report to the legislature on program achievements. What performance objectives is your proposal designed to meet? How will you measure success or failure in attaining your objectives? Also, include key milestones that can be addressed in a quarterly report.

Submittal process

- Completed proposals are due by **October 3, 2005, at 4:00 pm** at the following address:

**ATTN: Safe Routes to Schools
WSDOT Highways & Local Programs
310 Maple Park Ave SE
PO Box 47390
Olympia, WA 98504-7390**

OR

Email your proposal to hlpgrants@wsdot.wa.gov by **October 3, 2005, at 4:00 pm**. An automated response will be sent to you upon receipt. If you do not receive a response please call WSDOT Highways & Local Programs at 360-705-7370.

Selection process

- The Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Board is drawn from sponsoring agencies, educators and advocacy groups and they will evaluate proposals and make recommendations.
- [Recommendations will be provided to the state legislature by December 15, 2005 for final funding decision.](#)
- Announcements are expected after January 2006.

Program Contact
[Region Local Programs Engineer](#)